

WITHOUT LAURIE

THE MISSED YOU ONE SHOT

What is Corflu?

Corflu is an annual convention of fanzine fans. Corflu typically moves its venue from year to year. The name Corflu is derived from Correction Fluid, a substance in much demand during the low-tech, pre-computer days of fanzines.

Hi, Laurie!

From -

Corflu



GLITTER!

IT'S NOT RIGHT WITHOUT U

WOODY'S CORFLU REPORT

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CORFLU GLITTER EDITION

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WOODY DOES VEGAS: A Corflu Trip Report

By Woody Bernardi

I decided to attend Corflu Glitter back in September 2011 and sent in my membership through Pay Pal and I was in. Just a few days before the Con I noticed an email from Arnie Katz inviting me to participate in a panel called **Vegas Fandom Memories** to be held on Friday night at the Con. Fast Forward to my arrival at McCarran International Airport

After picking up the rental car I proceeded to drive downtown to The D Hotel (formerly The Fitz), located right in Glitter Gulch, the first of the two hotels at which I would stay during my time in Las Vegas. So I stayed downtown for two nights before moving to Sunset Station, the site of Corflu Glitter.

I stayed at the Sunset Station Friday and Saturday night while splitting my time between Corflu and visiting other friends among local fandom who didn't attend Corflu.

I had breakfast with Rebecca Hardin and her mother Betty on Friday morning. Later I met up with David Allred (my oldest friend in fandom). It was David who introduced Laurie and me and the three of us got the Fantastic Fiction Club of UNLV (FFCU) off the ground, back in the Spring Semester of 1987.

David accompanied me back to Corflu and crashed the Vegas Fandom Panel. Lori Forbes, Aileen Forman, Joyce Worley and myself sat on this panel. Then there was the Vegas Fandom Reunion parties in both Consuites. David hung out and schmoozed with the denizens of SNAFFU who came out of the woodwork. Greg Dees showed up and drew a

picture of a Fannish Sparky on the back of a copy of the VegasCon 1991 Program Book Cover which I had with me. He did the artwork for the book back in '91.



SPARKY FAN AT CORFLU GLITTER
I'd been wondering what became of our most famous SNAFFUite.
I guess he had made his way through the clubs and over the Mountains of Inertia into Fandom

At one point I wandered into the program room while Andy Hooper, Ken Forman and JoHn Hardin were setting up for the next program. Andy mentioned the need for human brains and I volunteered. After learning that there was a supermarket across the street I went on my quest and scored a pineapple and a melon. Andy was over joyed when I returned in time for him to work his Fannish magic and transform my acquired treasures into Terry Carr's pickled brains.

At the Vegas Fandom reunion

party I discovered that April Reckling is allergic to Melons and Aileen Form is allergic to Pineapples. I've known both of these women for neigh on 20 years now but never knew this about either of them.

On Saturday I slipped out of the Corflu hotel to meet up with members of the Vegas SF Association (VSFA) at Mindy and James' house on the Westside. Rebecca was there and 2 or 3 other VSFans were in attendance. These were members who have joined since I left Las Vegas and I don't recall their names at this point. I stayed for the viewing of "The Hulk" and then left before "Thor" got underway to return to Corflu.

On Sunday morning I slipped out again to go to a local church for services and returned, to Sunset Station, just in time for the closing banquet at Corflu. The Banquet was fabulous. British Fan Claire Brialey was elected GoH for Corflu Glitter. Her GoH Speech was incredible. I myself have only attended four Corflus. Through Claire's GoH speech, I feel that I have vicariously attended many more. Check out "Corflu Glitter: the Last Gasp, ed by Arnie Katz (available as a free download at: www.Corflu.org) for much more about the awards and other happenings at Corflu Glitter.

Later, I met up with Rebecca, Betty and Carol Kern, for dinner at a BBQ in the shopping center across from Sunset Station. Overall, I had a wonderful time and am very glad that I made the effort to attend.

How does The LASFS rank on the Kinsey Scale?

By Woody Bernardi

Francis Towner Laney wrote an article entitled "Apologize, Al Ashley!", originally published in issue No. 37 of Shangri L'Affaires, in June 1947. According to Laney, Al Ashley had said "...that 80% of the membership of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS) are homosexuals." Laney devotes two pages in which he comes to the conclusion that the LASFS is actually "50.7% 'heterosexual', 28.4% 'doubtful', and only 20.9% 'homosexual'". This is a pretty amazing percentage against the "ten percent" figure, according to a review at Box Turtle Bulletin: "According To The Kinsey Reports A noisy revolution in social science and popular culture" by Jim Burroway, January 3, 2008; <http://www.boxturtlebulletin.com/Articles/000,024.htm>, "which sug-

gests that 10% of the population is Gay."

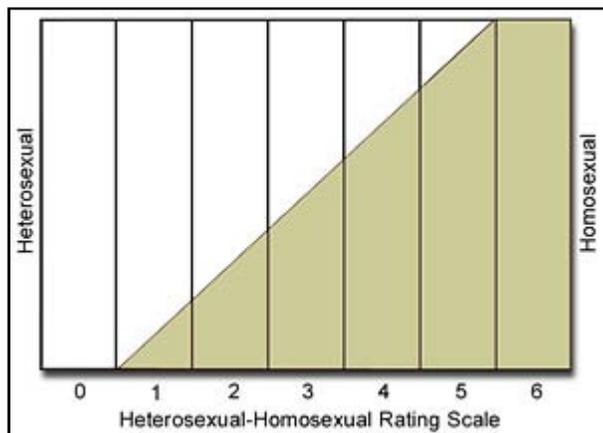
Okay so what is the "Kinsey Report"? On January 5, 1948, a book entitled "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" by Alfred C. Kinsey, with two co-Authors was published. This book quickly became a best seller, selling 250,000 copies, according to Burroway. In this report Dr. Kinsey states the conclusions to his nine years of research into the subject. "Many have grabbed onto the '10% Lore' as a hard and fast statistic. But in fact Dr. Kinsey didn't report any such thing. He did

his Report. Laney stated: "...this is 50.7% heterosexual, 28.4% doubtful and only 20.9% homosexual."

So if both Kinsey and Laney are to be believed than the LASFS of Laney's day was inordinately homosexual in makeup (at 20.9%). The tone of Laney's piece was that of triumph as his point was that the LASFS was not 80% homosexual (or by extension only 20% heterosexual)

as Ashley apparently stated but 50.7% heterosexual (or 40.3% other than heterosexual). One wonders if Laney was aware of Dr. Kinsey and his work. My feeling is that if he were aware of Kinsey's work then he might not have been so exuberant about discovering that the LASFS had such a high percentage of "homosexuals".

My father has told me that in "his time" (ca. 1952) it was known that California had a large number of "homosexuals". So it would seem that the LASFS, of Laney's day was a microcosm of the California Macrocosm.



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- 0- Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual
- 1- Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual
- 2- Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
- 3- Equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4- Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
- 5- Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual
- 6- Exclusively homosexual

conclude that males are 'more or less exclusively homosexual' (i.e., a scale of 5 or 6 on the Kinsey Scale), for at least three of the years between the ages of 16 & 55", according to Burroway.

So was Laney ahead of his time in writing his piece a good six months or more before Kinsey's book was published? Also, I noticed that Laney's figure of some 20.9% of LASFS being homosexual is more than twice that of Kinsey's Report. Laney also breaks down his findings into several categories much the same as Kinsey does in



FANDOM IS JUST A GHODDAMNED HOBBY (FIJAGH)

A review of *Ah! Sweet Laney!; The Writings of a Great Big Man: Francis Towner Laney*, edited by Robert Lichtman;
Design and Production by Pat Virze
BY WOODY BERNARDI

Ah! Sweet Laney!; The Writings of a Great Big Man. Selected Writings of Francis Towner Laney, edited by Robert Lichtman. Design and production by Pat Virzi. Copyright 2007 by Robert Lichtman. Published for Corflu Quire, February 9-11, 2007 Austin, Texas.

I picked up this tomb of Golden Age Fanhistory at the Corflu Glitter Auction. It is over 130 pages of Ah! Sweet ~~idiot~~ err, um I mean Fannishness. I still can't believe how much I enjoyed this it. Contained in within 2 clear plastic sleeves is a Maroon colored front and back cover. Sandwiched in between, like the cream filling of a Cherry Oreo, you'll find articles written by Robert Lichtman, Charles Edward Burbee, Robert Bloch, Jack Speer and of course Laney himself. There's even a piece which carries the byline of one Zelda P. Mishler, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF) Hostess in 1948.

There's plenty of Fan Art contained within also. The credited artists include William Rotsler, one Vergil Partch (who is credited with the image of Laney on the front cover, originally featured in *FAN #1*, June 1945 according to Lichtman.) & Alva Rogers, among others. There's a complete list of contributors on the Title Page.

The zine starts out with "Introductory Notes" by Lichtman. Followed up by an article, entitled "A Damned Sick Man: An Irrelevant Tale about Laney", by Burbee. This was originally published in *The Stormy Petrel*, May 1959, edited by

in *The Stormy Petrel*. The title of the article, of course, refers to Laney's long running subscription fanzine, "...devoted to the serious study of H. P. Lovecraft and other writers of fantasy/horror fiction", according to Lichtman.

Interspersed among the various articles are images of covers of several zines which Laney edited during his years in Fandom. At least a dozen of them are *The Acolyte*, published between 1943 & 1946. Several of these have covers credited to Rogers. There's one image of the cover for *Shangri-L'Affaires #25*, published in April 1945, the cover is credited to Rogers. There's the image of a zine entitled *Five Fingers, The Glory Hand* w/cover art by Partch and Rotsler. Also included are images of the covers of five issues of *Fandango*, published between 1946-51. All of the *Fandango* covers, shown here, were credited to Rotsler.

The Table of Contents reads like a veritable Time Capsule. Some of the articles are clearly tongue in cheek and some are of serious and/or timely subject matters. There's "I am a Great Big Man"; "Syllabus for a Fanzine"; "Artistry of the One-Shot Fanzine"; "Pacifcon Diary"; "My Ideals of Fandom"; "Satchmo at Billy Berg's"; "The Problems of the Isolated Fan"; "Some notes on Bomb-Dodging"; "Dianuts & Dianetics"; "I'm a Afraid they'll come to my house" and many more. There



Terry Carr. This was a One Shot Fanzine which Carr produced after Laney's Death. This piece by The Burb was written after he discovered Laney had died. I thought it was a good follow up to the Intro.

The next piece was entitled "The Acolyte" by Robert Bloch. This was also originally published

are just too many to list the entire Table of Contents here.

The order in which the articles appear seems to be rather haphazard. At least I was not able to discern the reason for Lichtman's arrangement of the publication. I decided halfway through that I would have preferred to have read the articles in the order in which they had been written, the same way in which his contemporaries in Fandom read his stuff (because, after all there is no wrong way to eat a cherry oreo). So I decided to

begin reading what was left in consecutive order by the Month and Year of their original publishing date. That's how I managed to forget about the piece with the byline of Zelda P. Mishler. So after I had read all the rest of the zine and had already started writing this review, I read this final article.

What a mess, Laney's intro states that he transcribed it "verbatim" from the "official welcoming letter", received by Burbee the Summer of 1947 as a new member of the NFFF. There was punctuation all over the place and the grammar was atrocious. Per Laney's intro "The original letter is handwritten without paragraphing, and we've taken the liberty of spacing it out for ease of reading." The only way to know the reason for this disclaimer is to read it for yourself.

Reading this zine made me feel almost as if I had traveled back in time and was able to read the articles as they were written. There's a lot of tongue and cheek humor and some serious writing as well.



There's a piece entitled "I am a Great Big Man! Which was originally published in *Spaceways*, No 41, August 1950, ed by Charles Burbee & F.T. Laney. It's a wonderful piece in which he has some fun recounting some of his life's accomplishments. He was motivated by a run of autobiographies in FAPA and decides not to continue to "hide his light under a bush."

He recounts that he has been a lodge brother of national repute (in 1933 he held a national office in the Order of DeMolay. He also states that he has been editing magazines and newspapers (some w/ international circulation) for nearly 20 years; Since he was editor of his high school's newspaper in 1930-31, then *Acolyte*, *Fan-Dango* and other Fanzines.

He also recalls managing a successful carnival. He chaired the committee which put on a carnival for DeMolay in 1934 and they netted \$300. There are many more accomplishments and exploits which Laney regales.

The article entitled "Some notes on Bomb-Dodging", in which he recounts a conversation he and Al Ashley had regarding the practicality of even attempting to survive a nuclear holocaust should it be set off. Reading from our place in time makes it far more of an enjoyable read than it may perhaps have been to his contemporaries.

The final article is entitled "De Mortuis" by Jack Speer. This is essentially a Eulogy of Laney's life as a Fan.

Ah! Sweet Laney! The Writings of a Great Big Man

Selected Writings of
Francis Towner Laney
Edited by Robert
Lichtman

Cover designs and title
page by Dan Steffan
Interior illustrations
by William Rotsler
Design and production
by Pat Virzi

[http://efanzines.com/
ASL/index.htm](http://efanzines.com/ASL/index.htm)

From the introduction by
Robert Lichtman:

"Some of the articles in this collection have been reprinted in various fanzines over the years, but for most this is their first airing since they were written in the '40s and early '50s. Since not everyone has access to the original fanzines or the reprints, they are included here for all to enjoy..."

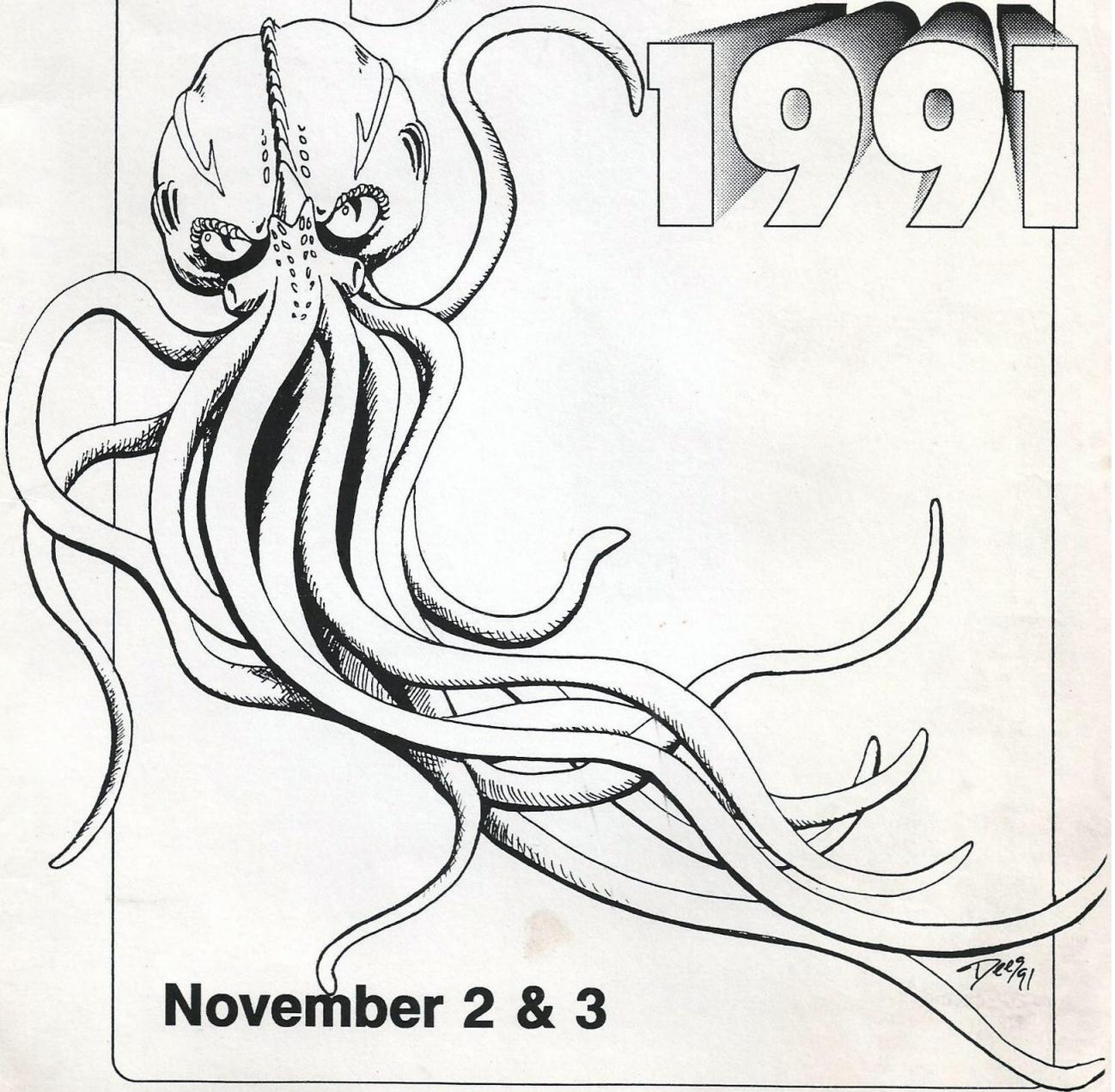
"The articles in this collection amply demonstrate the wide range of Laney's interests and obsessions without any further editorial comment. (I can't resist noting, however, that "Apologize, Al Ashley!" is the article that got Burbee fired as editor of *Shangri L'Affaires*.) I hope you derive as much enjoyment reading it as I did putting it together."

132 pages plus covers,
unibound

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VegasCon

1991



November 2 & 3

1991

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